

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printer system, comprising:

a first printer that is capable of being in one of a ready state and a not ready state, with respect to processing any incoming print jobs;
a second printer that is capable of being in one of the ready state and the not ready state,

wherein the first printer redirects a print job sent to the first printer, to the second printer, when the first printer is in the not ready state.

2. The printer system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a printer administrator that is coupled to the first printer and the second printer by way of a communications network,

wherein the printer administrator is notified by the first printer as to any print job redirections made by the first printer.

3. A printer system, comprising:

a first printer that is capable of being in one of a ready state and a not ready state, with respect to processing any incoming print jobs, wherein the not ready state includes at least a first non-recoverable error sub-state;

a second printer,

wherein the first printer redirects a print job sent to the first printer, to the second printer, when the first printer is in the first non-recoverable error sub-state.

4. The print system according to claim 3, further comprising:

a third printer,

wherein the not ready state also includes a second non-recoverable error sub-state, and

wherein the first printer redirects a print job sent to the first printer, to the third printer, when the first printer is in the second non-recoverable error sub-state.

5. The printer system according to claim 3, further comprising:
a printer administrator that is coupled to the first printer and
the second printer by way of a communications network,

wherein the printer administrator is notified by the first
printer as to any print job redirections made by the first printer.

6. A printer system, comprising:
a first printer having a first set of printing capabilities; and
a second printer having a second set of printing capabilities
greater than the first set of printing capabilities,

wherein the first printer includes a processor for reading
information contained in a print job sent to the first printer, and

wherein the first printer redirects the print job to the second printer
when the information contained in the print job is such that the
capabilities of the first printer will not allow it to properly perform the
print job while the capabilities of the second printer will allow it to
properly perform the print job.

7. The printer system according to claim 6, further comprising:
a printer administrator that is coupled to the first printer and
the second printer by way of a communications network,

wherein the printer administrator is notified by the first
printer as to any print job redirections made by the first printer.

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8. A redundant printer system, comprising:
 - a first printer that receives print jobs over a network;
 - a second printer that receives print jobs over the network,
 - wherein the first printer redirects a print job sent to the first printer, the redirection being made to the second printer, when the first printer is not capable of printing the print job.
 9. A method of printing a job on one of a plurality of network printers coupled to a network, comprising:
 - receiving, by a first of the network printers, a print job;
 - determining, by the first of the network printers, a current operating state of the first of the network printers, the current operating state being either a first state or a second state; and
 - routing, by the first of the network printers, the print job to a second of the network printers when the operating state is in the first state.
 10. The method according to claim 9, further comprising:
 - executing the print job, by the first of the network printers, when the operating state of the first of the network printers is in the second state,
 - wherein the print job is not routed to the second of the network printers when the operating state of the first of the network printers is in the second state.
 11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the first state is a Not Ready to Process Incoming Print Jobs state, and

wherein the second state is a Ready to Process Incoming Print Jobs state.

12. A method of printing a job on one of a plurality of network printers coupled to a network, comprising:

receiving, by a first of the network printers, a print job;

determining, by the first of the network printers, a current operating state of the first of the network printers, the current operating state including at least one state corresponding to a non-recoverable error state; and

routing, by the first of the network printers, the print job to a second of the network printers when the operating state is the non-recoverable error state.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

executing the print job, by the first of the network printers, when the operating state of the first of the network printers is in a state other than the non-recoverable error state,

wherein the print job is not routed to the second of the network printers when the operating state of the first of the network printers is in the state other than the non-recoverable error state.

14. A method of printing a job on one of a plurality of network printers coupled to a network, comprising:

receiving, by a first of the network printers, a print job;

reading, by the first of the network printers, at least a portion of information contained in the print job;

determining, by the first of the network printers, whether or not the first of the network printers is capable of performing the print job based on the information contained in the print job; and

either routing the print job to another of the network printers or executing the print job by the first of the network printers, based on a result of the determining step.